

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

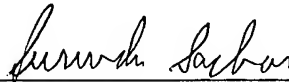
Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

By the present Preliminary Amendment the pending claims are canceled without prejudice and new claims 22-39 are presented for examination. New claims 22-39 are deemed to be self-evident from the original disclosure, including the original claims, and thus are not deemed to raise any issues of new matter.

The present application is believed to be in condition for a full and thorough examination on the merits. An early and favorable consideration of the present application is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Registration No. 25,599
Surinder Sachar
Registration No. 34,423
Attorneys of Record

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000

Fax: (703) 413 -2220

GJM/SNS:sjh

I:\ATTY\SNS\284132US-PR.DOC